NOTE XV.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW AFRICAN BAT, LEIPONYX BÜTTIKOFERI.

BY

Dr. F. A. JENTINK.

January 1881.

In the family of the *Pteropodidae* there are three genera in which the claw to the index finger is wanting, viz. *Cephalotes*, *Notopteris* and *Eonycteris*. The first of these genera is represented by two, the others each by a single species. They are distributed in the following manner: *Cephalotes peronii* inhabits the islands of the Austro-Malayan subregion, while *Cephalotes minor* is to be found in New Guinea; *Notopteris macdonaldii* is limited to the Fiji-group and Aneiteum-island and *Eonycteris spelaea* is to be found in caves on the Indian continent (Burma). The *Pteropodidae* met with by the numerous travellers in the African continent belong without exception to the genera *Epomophorus* and *Cynonycteris*. Taking these facts into consideration I was greatly surprised to find in a small collection of bats, made in Liberia by our travellers Büttikofer and Sala a *Pteropus*-like bat, which did not possess a claw to the index finger and so could not belong to a species of *Epomophorus* or *Cynonycteris*. This species differing in many points from the other species without a claw to the index finger, I am obliged to regard our specimen as the type-species of a new genus, which I propose to call

Leiponyx, n. g.

Muzzle as in *Pteropus*. Nostrils slightly projecting, rather deeply emarginate between. Upper lip with a distinct vertical groove in front.

Index finger without a claw. Metacarpal bone of the middle finger smaller than the index finger. Wings from the sides of the back and from the base of the first toe. Tail short, for its greater part free from the membrane.

Dentition. Inc. $\frac{2-2}{4}$, c. $\frac{1-1}{1-1}$, p.m. $\frac{2-2}{3-3}$, m. $\frac{2-2}{3-3} = 32$.

Leiponyx büttikoferi, n. sp.

Ear longer than the muzzle (the distance between the tip of the nose to the foremost corner of the eye). Ear-conch with a rounded tip, the outer margin in its upper part concave, convex further on, inner margin slightly curved. Shoulder-glands absent in the female, the single specimen we possess.

The palate-ridges are seven in number; the first four are undivided; the first is nearly straight and placed between the canines, the second is slightly curved and placed immediately behind the first premolars, the third ridge is broader than the second and unites the second premolars; the fourth again is more arched and unites the space between the two molars on each side. The three remaining ridges form oval elevations on each side resembling those in *Epomophorus comptus*. They are succeeded by ill-defined semicircular toothed lines similar to the same parts in *Epomophorus franqueti*.

The four unicuspidate upper incisors are placed at a distance from the canines, in pairs, with a rather wide space between those pairs. The foremost incisors are the smallest. The lower incisors are also unicuspidate and nearly equal in

size and placed in a semicircular row between the smooth canines. The canines in the upper and lower jaw are followed at a small distance by the little developed first premolars, which are separated from the much stouter second premolars by a rather large interval. The third premolar in the lower jaw is separated by a space nearly as large as the interval between first and second premolar. This is the most developed premolar, not in vertical extent but in circumference. Molars very small, slightly raised above the level of the gum, especially the lower molars.

Fur short, yellowish brown, darker on the head. Ears and wings blackish brown. Claws black, strongly arched and acutely pointed.

Measures of the single specimen.

	m m.
Head and body	195.
Tail	13.
Tail free from membrane	7.5
Ear	25.
Thumb with claw	46.
Forearm.	125.
Index finger	85.
Third finger, metacarp.	82.
» » 1st phalanx.	50.
» » 2nd phalanx.	89.
Fourth finger, metacarp	82.
» » 1st phalanx	43.
» » 2nd phalanx	52.
Fifth finger, metacarp	78.
» » 1st phalanx	33.
» » 2nd phalanx.	33.
Tibia.	52.
Foot with claw	35.

Hab. Liberia, St. Paul's River (Millsburg).

Among the other bats, collected in Liberia by the above named travellers, I found about 30 specimens of *Vesperugo nanus* Peters. They were captured in the houses of the Negroes, hiding under the roofs. This capture is not without interest, for as far as I know this species had hitherto only been met with on the East Coast of Africa and in Madagascar. Two specimens in the collection belong to *Epomophorus franqueti.*